GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:659
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce biometric passports called e-passport to avoid fraudulent misuse and tampering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such passports are likely to be introduced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)-(c) Yes. In order to provide protection against fraudulent misuse and tampering, the Government have decided to introduce e-passports, also known as bio-metric passports, initially for diplomats and officials as a pilot project, which has already been launched on 25th June 2008. Based on the experience gained through the pilot phase of issuance of e-passports in the diplomatic and official categories, issue of e-passports in the ordinary passport category will be taken up by the end of 2009.